AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract, with the following rewritten abstract:

~~Disclosed herein are e~~Expanded polystyrene particles having a polyvinyl acetate resin-based functional skin layer~~, formed on the surface of expanded polystyrene particles. Further disclosed are~~ and a process thereof are provided. The particle includes an inner expanded polystyrene layer; and a functional skin layer. The inner expanded polystyrene layer is formed by heating and expanding an expandable polystyrene bead or pellet, and the functional skin layer is formed by coating the surface of the inner expanded polystyrene layer with a functional coating composition having 10 to 99 wt% of a vinyl acetate based polymer and 0.1 to 90 wt% of at least one functional additive.~~for producing the expanded polystyrene particles and the use of the expanded polystyrene particles. According to the expanded polystyrene particles of the present invention, inherent properties of the expanded polystyrene, e.g., light weight, thermal insulation properties, shape stability, buffering properties and sound absorption, are ensured, and superior low-temperature bonding properties, air-tightness, waterproofness and durability are provided by the vinyl acetate based polymer constituting the skin layer. Optionally, various functional additives, including flame retardants, water-repellents, antibacterial agents, colorants, flavoring agents, etc., can be added to the polyvinyl acetate resin to impart a variety of functions to the expanded polystyrene particles in a simple manner.~~